The above data show that while the rate of growth of rural population increased slightly between the decade 1971-81 and 1981-91, the urban growth rate declined significantly. This suggests that there was certainly no exodus of people from villages to towns.

(b) The Government in recent times is giving great emphasis on povery alleviation programmes in the rural areas as a means of supplementing the income of the rural poor to enable them to cross the poverty line on a sustained basis. The major poverty alleviation programmes being implemented in the rural areas are (i) The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP); (ii) The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY); and (iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). While IRDP is a self employment programme, JRY and EAS are wage employment programmes. There has been an increase in the allocations made under these programmes in the last three years, the details of which are given in the table below. Furthermore, the operatinal strategy for these programmes is also being continuously reviewed and revised with a view to increasing their efficacy.

Financial Allocation under major poverty alleviation Scheme during 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96

(Rs. in crores)

Programme	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95 (Prov.)	1995-96 (Prov.)
	Total Allocation	Total Allocation	Total Allocation	Total Allocation
IRDP	662.22	1093.43	1098.22	1097.21
JRY	3169.05	3181.22	3498.72	4044.97
IJRY	—	878.20	878.20	500.00
EAS	—	548.77	1410.25	1252.01

Central Release+State matching share as on 8.2.1996.

Report of Sub-Committee Regarding Operation of PF and ESI Schemes

1077. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sub-committee appointed to look into the operation of Provident Fund and ESI Schemes has submitted its report; and

(b) if so, what are its recommendations and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of labour recommended, inter-alia, for making non-payment of EPF/ESI dues a non-bailable offence, non-payment of employer's share criminal breach of trust, setting up of special police cells, speeding up the process of computerisation, strengthening of supervision in the exempted sector etc. The recommendations relating to setting up of special police cells, strengthening of supervision on the exempted establishments, computerisation etc. have been accepted and forwarded to concerned authorities for implementation. The remaining recommendations require further examination in consultation with other Ministries/Departments.